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Fire & Rescue Division Hazardous Materials Section

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PURPOSE and BENEFITS OF THE HAZ-MAT INSPECTION PROGRAM

It has been often asked what the purpose and benefits are to the agencies managing a hazardous materials response team program to participate in the Cal/EMA Fire & Rescue Haz-Mat Team Typing Inspection program.

Participation by any emergency response entity is completely voluntary. However, support of this company typing concept for hazardous materials resources strengthens the hazardous materials response capabilities in all Regions, and the State of California Mutual Aid System

INITIAL (ORIGINAL) INSPECTION BENEFITS:

- Encourages and reinforces the use of the FIREScope Standardized Equipment List (SEL)
- Establishes a standardized platform for haz-mat equipment throughout the State based on performance
- Encourages and reinforces the use of the CSTI certified Hazardous Materials Technician and Specialist training curricula
- Encourages adoption of FIREScope Resource Typing for Haz-Mat Companies
- Verifies that all similarly typed Haz-Mat Companies (Type 1, 2, and 3) are resource equivalent especially with respect to equipment and training
- Inspection process quantifies and verifies accurate measure of Haz-Mat Company "Type" which supports standardization
- Meets and exceeds the Haz-Mat Company Typing criteria of FEMA Target Capabilities

- Typed teams officially recognized, and added to State Haz-Mat Mutual Aid Roster
- Request for hazardous materials mutual aid resources is standardized and is in keeping with the State Mutual Aid Plan
- Haz-Mat Companies would follow standard State activation/mobilization procedures
- Dependable Haz-Mat Company resource lists are maintained in Operational Area Dispatch Centers
- Assembly of Haz-Mat Company resources follows FIREScope protocols and FOG
- Promotes all Haz-Mat Companies to work together within the Haz-Mat Group seamlessly
- Promotes all Haz-Mat Companies to use the same ICS Structure, and utilize the ICS Forms
- Builds confidence and encourages adoption of continuity among all participating Typed Haz-Mat Companies
- Increases opportunities for future equipment grant applications

RESOURCE TYPING:

Upon completion and passing of the initial (original) Haz-Mat Company Typing Inspection, the participating agency receives letters of congratulation and a “Certificate of Achievement” which is valid for five (5) years. Upon the approach of the expiration of the initial inspection, the agency should request a re-inspection.

Purpose: Continue to follow the State standard regarding the concept of “typing” emergency response resources complimentary to other Cal/EMA Fire & Rescue resource typing programs. This has been achieved and has resulted in creation of the three-tier FIREScope Haz-Mat Typing program that includes definitions and descriptions for Type 1, Type 2, and Type 3 Haz-Mat Companies.

RE-INSPECTION BENEFITS and OBJECTIVES:

- To insure that compliance to specified industry standards, requirements, and certifications is being maintained as they apply to specific tool or equipment items (i.e. NFPA, UL, ASTM, EPA, etc.)
- To examine issues regarding Shelf Life (i.e. protective clothing, colorimetric tubes, etc) are being addressed and correctly managed

- To verify that instrument upgrades, recertification, replacements and/or modifications (i.e. survey instruments, radiological instruments, walkie talkies, etc.) are current where applicable
- To verify that the on-board computer system and operating software system(s) are current (i.e. within 2 versions)
- To assure that software databases (i.e. electronic and printed) are current and are not more than two (2) editions or versions out-of-date
- To assure that all appropriate training records for assigned personnel are current as required